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**IDEA-2780-65**  
**Cy 8 of 8**

**7 October 1965**

**MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy for Field Activities**

**SUBJECT : Escape System of the U-2**

1. Since Headquarters approval of Lockheed's ECP No. 189-1 to provide a larger parachute canopy, several developments have occurred which dictate the advisability of a re-examination of the overall U-2 escape system. First of all, Weber Aircraft Co. successfully demonstrated zero zero escape using a human subject. In this system a drogue gun is fired at the time of seat-man separation which insures faster opening of the parachute. In this same test, Rocket Jet Engineering Co. demonstrated an automatic survival kit actuator which dropped the kit from the man on a 25 foot lanyard nine seconds after seat-man separation. Secondly, in an effort to increase pilot comfort, Headquarters has requested David Clark Co. to submit an ECP for two full pressure suits to conduct a feasibility study on the incorporation of the fps in U-2 aircraft. Third, Lockheed is preparing a proposal for installing a high energy catapult. Lastly, some consideration should be given to the possibility of incorporating a drogue parachute which will provide stability for the man during an extended free fall.

2. In view of the above, it is requested a meeting be convened by D/FA to finalize the desired escape system configuration.

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**ASD/OSA** [redacted] **(7 Oct 65)**

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